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# REPORT

OF THE

*Medical Officer of Health*

FOR THE

*Borough of Barnstaple*

*FOR THE YEAR 1951.*



*The Castle,*

*Barnstaple,*

*July, 1952.*

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and  
Councillors of the Borough of Barnstaple.*

*Mr. Mayor, Miss Howard and Gentlemen,*

*I have the honour to present the  
Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary  
Administration of the Borough for the year  
1951.*

*Your obedient Servant,*

*F. J. H. MARTIN,*

*M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,*

*M.O.H., Barnstaple.*

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## List of Staff.

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The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of :—

### PART-TIME OFFICER :—

F. J. H. MARTIN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

### WHOLE-TIME OFFICERS :—

A. E. TUCKER, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector  
(To May, 1951).

W. RODGERS, M.S.I.A.

Chief Sanitary Inspector  
(From June, 1951).

R. COOPE, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

MISS E. M. FENNELL

Clerk.

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Mr. A. E. Tucker retired in May, 1951, to the general regret of all concerned, after 30 years' service with the Corporation.

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	...	...	...	2,396
Population (1951 Census)	...	...	...	16,110
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	4,850
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£ 119,536
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£481

### Vital Statistics.

		Males	Females	Total
LIVE BIRTHS.	Legitimate	127	128	255
	Illegitimate	6	2	8
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population		...	...	16.32
		Males	Females	
STILL BIRTHS.	Legitimate	5	4	} Total 10
	Illegitimate	1	0	
STILL BIRTH RATE per 1,000 total (live and still) births				36.63
		Males	Females	Total
DEATHS		125	116	241
DEATH RATE per 1,000 population	...	...	...	14.96

The Table appended shows the comparative figures for Barnstaple, and England and Wales.

The Local Birth and Death Rates are shown corrected by the Area Comparability Factors.

Birth Rate per 1,000 population			Death Rate per 1,000	Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	
	Live Births	Still Births		Deaths under 1 year	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years
Barnstaple	16.15	0.61	11.81	38.02	0
England and Wales	15.5	0.36	12.5	29.6	1.4

				Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	5	4	10
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	0	

				Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	4	4	9
Illegitimate	...	..	...	1	0	

Rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	38.02
----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-------

65—69	...	24	85—89	...	24
70—74	...	29	90—94	...	3
75—79	...	45	95 plus	...	3
80—84	...	41	Total	...	169

During the year 3 cases of Acute Poliomyelitis occurred in the Borough. All three were Non paralytic, and there were no deaths. Two of the cases had been admitted to the North Devon Infirmary from outside areas.

## Meteorological Report.

I am obliged to the Barnstaple Meteorological Station at the North Devon Athenæum for the following information:—

**Barometer.** Highest reading 30·5 ins. Lowest reading 28·3 ins.

**Temperature.** Maximum 80° on 30th July. Minimum 27° on 29th January.  
Mean for the year 50·7°

**Rainfall.** 36·4 ins. Average for preceding 10 years 33·01 ins.  
Number of days on which ·01 ins. or more of rain fell, 201.

### Tuberculosis.

The two following tables show cases of tuberculosis notified during the year and the deaths from this disease. Sexes are separated. Pulmonary and non-pulmonary are also differentiated.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
1—5				
5—10	1	1	1	
10—15		2		1
15—20				
20—25				
25—35	2	1	1	1
35—45	1	2		
45—55	4	2	1	
55—65	1			
65 and over	1			
Totals	10	8	3	2

AGE PERIODS	DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year				
1—5				
5—10				
10—15				
15—20				
20—25				
25—35				
35—45				
45—55	1			
55—65	1	1	1	
65 and over	3	1		
Totals	5	2	1	0



# Infectious Diseases Notified (Excluding Tuberculosis)

AGE GROUPS	Scarlet Fever	Sonne Dysentery	Polio- myelitis		Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Removed to Isolation Hospital
			Paral.	Non- Paral.							Polio.
Under 1 year								2	7		
1 to 2 years		1				1		6	19		
2 to 3 years								5	15		
3 to 4 years	1							5	12		
4 to 5 years	1	1						6	15		
5 to 10 years	1	2				5		23	30		
10 to 15 years		1		1		1		3	1		1
15 to 20 years							1	2			
20 to 35 years	1	1		1	1	3	5	5	1		1
35 to 45 years		1		1	3	3	1				1
45 to 65 years		1				5					
65 years & over		1			1	16	1	1	4		
Age Unknown											
TOTAL	4†	9	Nil	3*	5	34	8†	58	104	Nil	3

† Puerperal Pyrexia—Six of these cases were at the North Devon Infirmary from outside districts.

† Scarlet Fever —All Isolated at home.

\* Poliomyelitis —Two of these cases were at the North Devon Infirmary from outside districts.

## Causes of Death during the Year 1951

Causes of Death		M.	F.
Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	...	5	2
Tuberculosis, Other ...	...	1	0
Syphilitic Disease ...	...	0	0
Diphtheria ...	...	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	...	0	0
Meningococcal Infections ...	...	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	0	0
Measles ...	...	0	0
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	...	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	...	3	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	...	2	0
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ...	...	0	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ...	...	0	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	...	9	8
Leukæmia, Aleukæmia ...	...	0	0
Diabetes ...	...	0	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	...	4	15
Coronary Disease, Angina ...	...	26	11
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	...	3	5
Other Heart Disease ...	...	32	44
Other Circulatory Disease ...	...	0	0
Influenza ...	...	5	9
Pneumonia ...	...	7	3
Bronchitis ...	...	4	3
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	...	0	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	...	1	0
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa ...	...	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	...	1	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	...	2	0
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	...	0	0
Congenital Malformations ...	...	1	1
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases ...	...	14	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	...	2	0
All other Accidents ...	...	2	2
Suicide ...	...	1	2
Homicide and operations of War ...	...	0	1
All Causes ...	...	125	116

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

### **Tuberculosis.**

Hawley Sanatorium, situated in the Borough, has 28 beds.

### **Maternity Cases.**

The Devon County Council continue to act as they did in 1947, as Agents of the Regional Hospital Board, until the Board has completed its own plans for the treatment of Maternity cases.

At the North Devon Infirmary there is a ward of 15 beds, with a fully qualified staff available for cases of doubt or difficulty.

At Bicklecombe Maternity Home, Ilfracombe, there are 20 Maternity and 4 Ante-natal beds.

There are 4 beds at Braunton Nursing Home.

NOTE. During 1951, 64 Barnstaple births took place at Ilfracombe, and 7 at Braunton.

A General Practitioners' Maternity Unit of 13 beds was opened at "Highfield," Victoria Road, Barnstaple, on 1st March, 1952.

### **Isolation of Infectious Diseases.**

There is an Infectious Diseases Joint Isolation Hospital at Bideford, which serves Barnstaple as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon. It comprises 34 beds (6 of which are in observation cubicles) and 4 cots.

### **Small-Pox.**

The Small-Pox Hospital to which any cases of Small-Pox will be sent is Upton Pine Hospital, near Exeter.

Special ambulance transport can be obtained by contacting the Isolation Hospital, Whipton, Exeter, Telephone 67158.

### **General.**

The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple, serves the area, and provides modern Medical and Surgical treatment for the residents of the district.

During the year a Ward at the Alexandra Hospital was set aside as an Annexe to the Male Wards of the North Devon Infirmary, and post-operative and recovering patients are now transferred as soon as practicable.

A Blood Bank has been established at the North Devon Infirmary.

There are 123 beds for the chronic sick at the Alexandra Hospital in Barnstaple.

At Braunton Nursing Home there are 4 beds for sick persons.

### **Laboratory Facilities.**

The main Laboratory is situated at 7 Dix's Field, Exeter, and Dr. Moore is the Director. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all patients. Bacteriological examinations of drinking water and milk are also carried out.

The new Pathological Laboratory is now open at the former Barnstaple and North Devon Dispensary building, with a full-time Pathologist and Technical Staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon Area.

### **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

V.D. Clinic. This is held at the North Devon Infirmary Annexe.

Sessions—

Females.	Mondays, 4 p.m.	Males.	Mondays, 5.15 p.m.
	Thursdays, 4.30 p.m.		Thursdays, 5.45 p.m.

Chest Clinic is held at the North Devon Infirmary Annexe.

Sessions—

Tuesdays	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	}	Clinic and X-Ray Examinations
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.		
Thursdays	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	}	A.P. refills
	2 p.m.—4.30 p.m.		
Fridays	9 a.m.—1 p.m.	}	
	2 p.m.—4 p.m.		

### **Ambulance Services.**

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e., the Devon County Council), is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. The Brigade serves the Borough and district, and the Head Quarters are in Commercial Road.

The staff consists of 3 paid members (full time) 20 men volunteers and 14 volunteer nurses.

The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available upon application to the Hospital, and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when the Ambulance is not necessary.

### **Professional Nursing in the Homes.**

There are 2 District Midwives, 2 District General Nurses, and 1 Health Visitor practising in the Borough.

There are also 10 Midwives at the North Devon Infirmary, 4 at the Alexandra Hospital, and 1 at Beech Hill Nursing Home.

### **Home Helps Scheme.**

This Scheme was started two years ago, and is run by the W.V.S. for the Devon County Council. It covers Barnstaple Borough and Rural Areas, wherever transport is available, and the Scheme is directed by Mrs. Hughes.

There are 36 Home Helps, and 200 cases were dealt with in 1951, as compared with 24 Home Helps and 69 cases in 1950.

Any case recommended by a Doctor, Health Visitor, or District Nurse, is entitled to a Home Help. The Home Helps do any work in the house normally done by the Housewife.

Home Helps are now looking after 12 aged people, who are living alone and would otherwise have to go to Hospital.

During the year 1951 Home Helps rendered assistance in the homes of 12 maternity cases.

### **Diphtheria Immunization.**

During the year Immunization was carried on, but I am sorry to note that the figures are below those for 1950:—

Number of children who received a course of				
Primary Injections	...	...	...	207
Number of children who received a Reinforcing				
Injection	...	...	...	305

**NOTE:—For the sixth consecutive year no cases of Diphtheria were notified.**

### **Vaccination.**

Number of children vaccinated against smallpox				420
Under 1 year	1—4	5—14	15 and over	
79	24	186	131	

# Sanitary Inspector's Report

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The Castle,  
Barnstaple,  
July, 1952.

*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of Barnstaple.*

Mr. Mayor, Miss Howard and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Report on the work of your Sanitary Inspectors for the year 1951. It is very largely a Report by proxy, for your late Sanitary Inspector, Mr. A. E. Tucker, retired during the year after 30 years' service, and a great part of the work done since his departure was merely a completion of what he had begun.

Details of work done (with comments, during the year under review are given under the separate headings, as:—

## (i) HOUSING.

Complacency must ever be absent from a Public Health Report, and in this field there is especial reason. Of the large number of houses (approximately 650) considered in 1939 as ripe for demolition, the greater part are still occupied, and have further deteriorated, while others are in danger of falling into this category, largely due to greatly increased costs of repair having to be met out of controlled rent. Cases can be quoted where all repairs necessary would swallow up 5—8 years' rent. Against this background, the policy is generally one of "patching up," and a reluctance to ask for statutory action.

The number of houses inspected was 237, and revisits in connection with work found necessary, 601.

Verminous premises treated: 26.

The total number of houses built during the year was:

By Local Authority	...	49
By Private Enterprise	...	3

The families accommodated at the new Council Houses consist of 106 adults and 101 children.



## (ii) REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The service is operated by four Driver-Collectors, four Collectors, and two men engaged on Disposal at the Controlled Tip at Raleigh, where tipping continued during the year. Two vehicles are in regular use (one of these comparatively new, the other being due for replacement, as it was purchased in 1935), and a third vehicle, which is fit only for occasional use, is brought into service at Bank Holiday periods and other times of emergency.

During the year these vehicles covered 11,240 miles, collecting approximately 5,000 tons of house and trade refuse. This is an ever-expanding service, and my best thanks are given to the men who do such onerous work so efficiently and in all weathers.

The cost of the service (Year ending 31st March, 1952) was £5,450 (Collection £3,345; Disposal £987; Salvage £1,118): against an estimated cost of £5,631 (Collection £3,553; Disposal £1,035; Salvage £1,043); i.e., an under-spending on Estimates of £181.

The income from fees for collection of Trade Refuse was £371 (Estimate £370).

Salvage was estimated to yield £1,350, but even this sanguine figure was easily exceeded, as prices of waste paper reached their highest in June, 1951, and the total sales for the year were £1,768.

One man is engaged full-time on the baling of Salvage, and is assisted by others on a rota system when the holiday period is over, and apart from the salvage collected from dwelling houses by the refuse collection vehicles, special visits are made to shops, offices and work-places.

A form of Bonus had been paid for some years to the men engaged on salvage collection and baling, and in July the Health Committee agreed to stabilise this at 15% of all salvage sales.

The following table shows the quantities of materials salvaged, together with their value :—

	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper & Cardboard	76	9	1	0	1,168	18	11
Newsprint ..	8	11	3	0	200	5	7
Books and Magazines ...	18	16	2	0	376	8	9
Rags and Sacking ...		6	3	14	8	18	9
Cord and Rope ...		10	3	26	5	12	4
Egg Cartons ...		1	1	26	2	1	6
Miscellaneous ...		4	0	17	5	9	9
	105	0	3	27	£1,767	15	7

Since 1939 1,755 tons of Salvage have been collected, value £12,193.

Approximately 280 tons of kitchen waste were collected by pig keepers during 1951.

### (iii) MEAT INSPECTION.

The Public Abattoir in Tuly Street continues to be used by the Ministry of Food as it has been since the inception of controlled slaughtering in 1940. From that date your Inspectors have done the meat inspection which formerly devolved upon five Local Authorities.

23,840 Food Animals were slaughtered and inspected at the Public Abattoir as follows :—

Cows	Heifers	Steers & Bulls	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
1,262	1,093	739	4,927	14,552	1,267
			(3 home consumption)	(9 home consumption)	(86 home consumption)

In addition the following were brought in dressed for inspection—  
Beasts, 11. Calves, 7. Sheep, 192. Pigs, 38.

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Meat condemned at Slaughterhouse	70	5	2	18
of which	38	4	3	10

came from "Casualty" carcasses.

Whole carcasses condemned include the following :—

Beasts, 162. Calves, 177. Sheep, 191. Pigs, 26.

10 Licences were issued to Slaughtermen.



The following table is in the form required by the Ministry, for Annual Reports :—

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed ... ..	1,832	1,262	4,927	14,552	1,267
„ brought in dressed ...	9	2	7	192	38
Number inspected ... ..	1,841	1,264	4,934	14,744	1,305
<b>All diseases except Tuberculosis</b>					
Whole Carcases Condemned ...	25	61	165	191	14
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	954	902	54	3043	145
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	53·2%	76·2%	4·4%	21·9%	12·2%
<b>Tuberculosis only</b>					
Whole Carcases Condemned ...	16	60	12	...	12
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	121	240	3	...	72
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis ... ..	7·4%	23·7%	·30%	...	6·4%

A satisfactory feature is that Tuberculosis in cows appears to be on the decline, 23·7% being a marked reduction on the generally-quoted figure of 33% for the country as a whole. (This, of course, is not the percentage of cows giving tuberculous milk, but those that are affected in any degree, or in any organ).

All cases of Generalised T.B. in cattle, and of Congenital T.B. in calves, are notified to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, whose veterinary inspectors endeavour to trace the source of infection. 73 cattle and 12 calves were notified in 1951, and in the case of 11 calves the Ministry were able to locate the infected dam and arrange for it to be slaughtered. This co-operation is, undoubtedly, a large factor in the reduction of the percentage of animals found to be tuberculous on inspection.

**CYSTICERCUS BOVIS**—the embryo form of a tape-worm infesting man (*Tænia Saginata*). This parasite still persists in beef, and routine inspections are carried out to locate it. 49 cases were discovered during the year, an incidence of 1·6% of the number of cattle inspected. In August one animal was found to be infested to a degree which was classified as "generalised." This is extremely rare, and the information was forwarded to the Ministry of Food, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Animal Health Division).

## (iv) FOOD AND DRUGS.

The Devon County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority, but, apparently by traditional usage, the sampling provisions are exercised locally. The number of samples taken during the year was 36, and the results were as tabulated below:—

Article	Number taken			Results of Examination
	Formal	Inf'mal	Total	
Milk ...	12	12	24	23 genuine 1 not genuine
Milk (appeal to cow)	3		3	All genuine
Water (Mains supply)		3	3	2 Class 1 1 Class 4
Duck Eggs ...		3	3	Cultures remained sterile
Pork Luncheon Meat (Tin)		1	1	Cultures remained sterile
Shoulder Ham (Portion from opened tin)		1	1	Cultures yielded growth of bact. coli, streptococcus faecalis, staphylococcus albus, sarcinæ and anærobic spore bearing bacilli
Cornish Pasty		1	1	Cultures remained sterile
Total ...	15	21	36	

In addition to the above three samples of milk were analysed by your Sanitary Inspector.

The only milk sample reported adversely against was found on analysis to be 1% deficient in Milk Fat, and on the instruction of the Health Committee the Producer-Retailer in question was interviewed and his explanation was satisfactory.

**ICE CREAM.** At the end of the year there were 64 premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream, supplied by 8 Producers. 41 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination. Of these 32 were satisfactory (25 Grade I, 7 Grade II). 6 were unsatisfactory (Grade III) and 3 very bad (Grade IV). It must be pointed out that the Laboratory test is merely an indication of keeping quality and not necessarily of **harmful** bacteria, but there is implied that careless methods of preparation, storage, or handling, which may lead to a low grade Ice Cream sample, may also assist the entrance and growth of pathogenic organisms, and such a sample is, naturally, suspect. All inferior samples are "followed up," and attempts made to discover and rectify any faults in storage or handling.

The results of samples are tabulated below :—

		Grade	Grade	Grade	Grade	Total
Producer		I	II	III	IV	
No.	1	2	1	1	—	4
	2	1	—	1	—	2
	3	3	—	1	—	4
	4	3	2	1	1	7
	5	4	1	—	1	6
	6	3	—	2	—	5
	7	6	—	—	1	7
	8	3	3	—	—	6
		25	7	6	3	41

It will be seen that most samples fall within Grade I, and most Producers comply with the Ministry recommendation that over a period 50% of their samples are Grade I.

## FOOD PREPARING PREMISES.

1,517 visits were made to such premises, and conditions are generally highly satisfactory. The recently-adopted Bye-laws to regulate the handling and wrapping, etc., of foods give wider powers than before, but these Bye laws are merely a recital of what many sensible Traders have practised for years. One firm of Provision Dealers with a Barnstaple branch gave a cinema show cum-lecture on Food Hygiene for its employees during the year, and the Officers of the Public Health Department were invited.

54 Traders co-operated with the Public Health Department in exhibiting notices requiring dogs to be kept out of food shops.

Food inspected and surrendered as unfit for human consumption was as listed below :—

Tinned Food				Other			
*Meat	...	...	483 tins	Beef (From Butchers' Shops)			305 lbs.
Fish	...	...	59 "	Mutton "	"	"	114 "
Fruit	...	...	535 "	Pork "	"	"	17 "
Vegetables	...	...	416 "	Fish	...	...	967 "
Preserves	...	...	26 "	Flour	...	...	120 "
Milk	...	...	55 "	Sugar	...	...	24 "
Soups	...	...	26 "	Dried Fruits	...	...	132 "
Various	...	...	22 "	Cheese	...	...	3 "
				Various	...	...	25 "
<hr/>				<hr/>			
1,622 tins				1,707 lbs.			

\* Includes 174 tins Imported Cooked Shoulder Ham, weighing 1,827 lbs.

## (v) MILK AND DAIRIES.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, the Borough Public Health Department is responsible for the following administrative duties :—

- (a) The sanitary conditions of the Distributive trade other than Producer-Retailers.
- (b) Control by Licence of the sale of milk bearing Special Designations.
- (c) Provision with regard to the infection of milk from human infectious diseases and from certain diseases of bovine origin.
- (d) The prevention of the sale of milk from animals infected by Tuberculosis and other specified conditions.

79 samples of milk were submitted to the County Public Health Laboratory for the detection of tubercle. All were negative.

The number of Dairies in the Borough under local supervision is now 18.

The following Licences were issued to sell milk under Special Designations:—

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	13
Pasteurised	...	...	1

It is to be the national policy eventually to ensure that all milk is "Designated" or "Heat Treated." Meanwhile, our best local contribution to a "safe" milk supply is the regular sampling from all Producers, for biological examination, i.e., to ensure that milk is free from Tuberculosis.

#### (vi) WATER SUPPLIES.

The water supply for the Borough of Barnstaple is satisfactory, both as regards quantity and quality.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out weekly, and the water is chlorinated.

The Borough Analyst reports on a sample of water submitted for chemical examination, before treatment or being put into supply:—

"The results show that the water has the characteristic quality of upland surface water drained from a clean gathering area. The analysis discloses no evidence of any unwholesome quality or any unusual constituent in the water. The water is devoid of plumbosolvent power.

The water is tasteless and odourless, and contains a trace only of organic matter in suspension. It is non-turbid."

## Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

(vii) The following tables show inspections, &c., carried out during 1951.

### 1—INSPECTIONS.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
1 Non-Mechanical Factories ...	37	14	Nil	Nil
2 Mechanical Factories ...	148	77	3	Nil
3 Other premises (excluding Out workers premises) ...	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Total</b> ...	189	91	3	Nil

### 2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Premises	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ...	5	5			
Overcrowding ...					
Unreasonable temperature ...					
Inadequate ventilation ...					
Ineffective drainage of floors ...					
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) insufficient ...	1	1			
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	10	9		1	
(c) not separate for sexes ...					
Other offences (not relating to Home Work) ...					
<b>Total</b> ...	16	15	Nil	1	Nil

### OUTWORK

#### Section 110

#### Section 111

Nature of Work	Number of Outworkers in August	Number of Cases of Default in sending lists	Number of Prosecutions for failure to send lists	Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel—Making ...	82	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Lace Curtains and Nets ...	25	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Total</b> ...	107	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil



## (viii) RODENT DISINFESTATION.

This work continues to be one of regular treatments of the main sewers and of other known "reservoirs" of infestations; the treatment of other reported infestations, and inspections at premises adjoining these.

(The relevant Act of 1949 places on occupiers of infested premises the duty of reporting to the Local Authority, who may disinfest if required to do so).

Two maintenance treatments of sewers (the 7th & 8th) were carried out during the year, both with the co-operation of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries and with transport and additional labour loaned by the Borough Surveyor.

There can be no doubt that these regular treatments have greatly reduced the rodent population of Barnstaple, and it is recommended that the work be continued on "caretaker" methods. It is significant that infestations are heaviest in those areas where the sewerage system is old or suspect.

Number of infestations reported and treated ...	149
Total number of visits made ...	2,529
(including 1,569 where no treatment found necessary).	

## (ix) INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

The following investigations were made :—

Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	4
Scarlet Fever Contact ...	...	...	1
Paratyphoid Contact ...	...	...	1
Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	3
Dysentery Sonn� ...	...	...	3
Additional visits re :—			
Tuberculosis ...	..	...	5
Dysentery Sonn� ...	...	...	6
Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	4
Disinfections were :—			
Tuberculosis ...	...	...	8
Scarlet Fever ...	..	...	2
Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	2
Nursing Home ...	...	...	1

9 separate lots of bedding and clothing were steam disinfected.



## (x) PETROLEUM AND EXPLOSIVES ACT.

The following storage licences were granted under the Petroleum Act, 1928 :—

Petroleum Spirit	...	...	...	59
Petroleum Spirit and Carbide of Calcium			...	3
Petroleum Spirit and Crude Benzol	...		...	1
Petroleum Spirit and Petroleum Mixtures			...	8
Petroleum Mixtures	...	...	...	4
Carbide of Calcium	...	...	...	1
Petroleum Mixtures and Carbide of Calcium			...	1
				—
		Total	...	77
				—

The quantities stored are as follows :—

Petroleum Spirit	...	199,951 gallons
Carbide of Calcium	...	1,944 lbs.
Crude Benzol	...	3,800 gallons
Petroleum Mixtures	...	1,534 gallons

The amount of fees received by the Local Authority for the above licences was £55 5s.

The number of premises registered for the storage of Mixed Explosives was 32.

**The following is a detailed list of Sanitary Operations  
carried out during the year 1951**

		Public Health Act	Food & Drugs and Milk & Dairies	Factories Acts
New sets of house drains laid	...	1	...	...
Drains repaired	...	39	...	...
Drains cleared	...	48	...	...
New soil pipes fixed	...	3	...	...
New interceptors fixed	...	1	...	..
New vent pipes provided	...	4	...	...
New inspection chambers built	...	6	...	...
New gullies fixed	...	4	...	...
Additional W.C.'s provided	...	5	1	...
W.C.'s repaired	...	15	...	1
New W.C. pans provided	...	32	1	...
New flushing cisterns provided	...	8	2	...
Rain pipes repaired	...	5	...	...
Doors cleansed	...	...	1	...
Plaster repaired	Internal	10	...	...
	External	8	...	...
Windows repaired or renewed	...	7	1	...
Floors renewed and repaired	...	5	3	...
Washing facilities provided	...	2	5	...
New scullery troughs provided	...	1	...	...
New scullery waste pipes fixed	...	1	...	...
Dampness remedied	...	7	...	...
Kitchen stoves repaired	...	6	...	...
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	30	...	...
Guttering renewed or repaired	...	16	...	...
Yards repaired or renewed	...	11	...	...
Bins provided	...	10	4	...
Rooms cleansed	...	11	17	1
Smoke & water tests applied to drains	...	93	...	...
Premises where nuisances abated	...	205	...	...
Vermin eradicated	...	26	...	...
Offensive accumulations removed	...	10	...	...
Ceilings repaired	...	4	...	...
Staircases repaired or renewed	...	2	...	...
Walls repaired	...	5	2	...
Doors repaired	...	3	1	...
Water supply improved	...	2	...	...
W.C.'s disconnected	...	...	1	...
Food protected from contamination	...	...	10	...
Means of escape in case of fire improved	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	35	...	...

## Summary of Inspections, &c.

Visits made	...	...	...	...	3,989
Houses inspected, Public Health Act			...	...	237
Revisits	...	...	...	...	601
Visits to slaughterhouse and butchers' shops	...			...	983
Food preparing premises		...	...	...	22
Visits to other food shops		..	..	...	336
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	31
Milk Vehicles	...	...	...	...	31
Dairies inspected	...	...	...	...	47
Ice Cream premises	...	...	...	...	67
Piggeries inspected	...	...	...	...	18
Factories	...	...	...	...	91
Offensive Trade Premises		...	...	...	20
Outworkers' premises	...	...	...	...	3
Visits to refuse tip	...	...	...	...	231
Camping sites	...	...	...	...	5
Shops and Offices	...	...	...	...	9
Letters written	...	...	...	...	143
Statutory notices, Public Health Act			...	...	Nil
Informal Notices, Public Health Act			...	...	74
„ „ Factories	...		...	...	3
„ „ Food & Drugs	...		...	...	49
Verbal notices	...	...	...	...	132

I wish to express my thanks to all Members and Officials of the Corporation for their kindness and co-operation shown to a new-comer. I am especially indebted to Mr. R. Coope, who worked alone in the interval between Mr. Tucker's departure and my own arrival, and was always the ideal colleague ; also to Miss E. Fennell for her loyal and devoted service in the Office, and especially her painstaking work in the preparation of this report.

Your obedient servant,

W. RODGERS.







